



# The Southwester

*Serving the Southwest and Capitol Riverfront Communities*

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Ward 6 Council-member Tommy Wells, Chief Judge of the DC Superior Court Lee Satterfield, Director of the DC Superior Court's Family Court Social Services Division Terri Odom, and Family Court Deputy Presiding Judge Hiram Puig-Lugo participate in the formal ribbon-cutting.



## New BARJ Drop-In Center Opens

**Courtesy of the DC Superior Court**

The DC Superior Court's Family Court Social Services Division recently opened its new Balanced and Restorative Justice Drop-In Center (BARJ) in the 1200 block of South Capitol Street. The BARJ Drop-In Center will serve as a multi-faceted facility including a probation office, after school alternative to

detention for some, and includes a learning lab and a vocation training center.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony and official opening of the Center was attended by a number of dignitaries, including Councilmember Tommy Wells, Deputy Mayor Paul Quander, Deputy DC Attorney General for Public Safety Andrew Fois, Advisory Neighborhood Commiss-

*See "Center," page 9*



PTA President Martin Welles visits the well-equipped Music Room at Amidon-Bowen. A parent and young musician are ready to perform. (Photo: Perry Klein)



Commander Hickson and Command Sergeant Major Jessup welcome students on the first day at Amidon-Bowen  
(Photo by Perry Klein)

## Back to School

Amidon-Bowen Elementary School students returned to a renovated school when school began Aug. 27.

### More school news inside:

- "Seeing the future," page 5
- Amidon-Bowen open house, page 4
- Jefferson Academy starts second year, page 5

## Environmental Project Makes Progress

**By Kael Anderson**

The Southwest Environmental Justice group continues to research, monitor, report and campaign for improvements within our neighborhood. I was asked to report on some recent developments.

One goal of environmental justice campaigns is to move toward zero waste management systems. This is undoubtedly a long-term goal, but many properties are methodically moving toward it. Tiber Island Cooperative Homes for example installed the city's first solar water heat system and more recently approved an impervious paving system for its vehicular drives and parking areas.

But these improvements can take considerable financial investment and political capacity. Residents living in DC Housing Authority (DCHA) properties are particularly vulnerable – even for seemingly minor resources like recycling bins. Nonetheless, Greenleaf Gardens resident Alvin Bethea attended a Southwest Neighborhood Assembly meeting headlined by Mayor Gray last fall and passionately advocated that DCHA integrate a recycling program at its properties. To demonstrate its feasibility, he handed off a report he had prepared. At the time, the mayor said he'd consider it. After some follow up in the intervening period, we were pleased to see the arrival of (fluorescent green) recycling bins.



The Buzzard Point power plant.

We continue to explore other environmental justice issues, including toxic sites, like the petroleum hydrocarbon contamination in the vicinity of St. Augustine's Church.

A new topic explored last month was power plants, led by Mike Ewall, founder and director of the Energy Justice Network. The group learned that DDOE received a request from PEPCO to cancel its Title V air pollution permit for their Buzzard Point power plant. The long-awaited cancellation of the permit would revoke the right of PEPCO or any future owner from

*See "Project," page 9*

## SW ArtsFest, ART4ALL Feature Something for Everyone

**From the Organizers of SW ArtsFest**

On Saturday, Sept. 29, Southwest DC holds our neighborhood's annual free-admission SW ArtsFest. This year, SW ArtsFest forms part of Art4All DC, a six-week autumn arts celebration across DC's four quadrants. For more about Art4All, go to [www.culturaltourismdc.org/things-do-see/art4all-dc](http://www.culturaltourismdc.org/things-do-see/art4all-dc).

Like last year's SW ArtsFest, SW ArtsFest 2012 presents live music, outdoor art and flea markets, hand dancing, a film series, walking tours, many types of food and a sock-puppet studio on the waterfront.

Four neighborhood churches return from last year's festival. At Westminster Presbyterian, listen to the Jazz Preservation Festival. Stroll St. Augustine Episcopal's End-of-Summer Fair. Watch DC Shorts Film Festival selections at Christ United Methodist. Shop for bargains at

Second Union Baptist's Find the Art in the Flea Market.

SW ArtsFest 2012 also has spectacular new features. Check out the Central Art Market at the corner of M and Fourth streets SW. Ride in the Festival of Decorated Bikes: A Rolling Art Parade, along M Street from Yards Park to Fourth Street in Southwest. Watch and listen to Washington National Opera's Opera in the Outfield simulcast of *Don Giovanni* at Nationals Park.

Most exciting: place your bid in the 2012 SW ArtsFest silent auction at the SW ArtsFest information table, just outside the Waterfront Metrorail Station. The silent auction's fabulous items include dinners on cruise ships, weekend stays at the Capitol Skyline and the Holiday Inn and even a rare signed Bryce Harper National

*See "ArtsFest" page 3*

**See map and schedule, page 6**



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## Southwest Playground Project to be Approved as Park Partner

By Felicia Coutts

The DC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has agreed to designate the Near SE/SW Community Benefits Coordinating Council's Southwest Playground Project as a Park Partner for the 3rd and I street SW Park, located adjacent to the Southwest Library.

The official name of the new Park Partner will be the "Friends of 3rd and I SW Park." The agreement is expected to be finalized by the time of this publication. From there, a collaboration of meetings will occur between DPR and the

Friends of the 3rd and I SW Park to map and begin the planned park improvements which will include repairing the cracked walkways, installing retaining walls, pruning and removing dead trees, and installing playground equipment for children ages 2-12.

The new Friends of 3rd and I SW Park wishes to extend its sincere thanks to Tommy Wells, the ANC6D, the Mandarin Hotel, Safeway Foundation, Mr. Lawrence Impett, Make Kids Smile, CSX Corporation, Bravery Corporation, Station 4 and our Near SE/SW community of neighborhood supporters.

## Real Estate Report

Courtesy of Jason Martin, a real estate professional & resident of Southwest

The Southwest real estate market in August 2012 showed great improvements over August 2011. (The information below is deemed reliable but not guaranteed.)

	August 2012	August 2011	% Change
<b>Sold Dollar Volume</b>	\$5,241,862	\$2,631,111	99.23%
<b>Avg Sold Price</b>	\$275,887	\$219,259	25.83%
<b>Median Sold Price</b>	\$269,900	\$170,000	58.76%
<b>Units Sold</b>	19	12	58.33%
<b>Avg Days on Market</b>	59	117	-49.57%
<b>Avg List Price for Solds</b>	\$278,689	\$224,142	24.34%
<b>Avg Sale Price to Original List Price Ratio</b>	97%	88.00%	10.48%

## The Southwester

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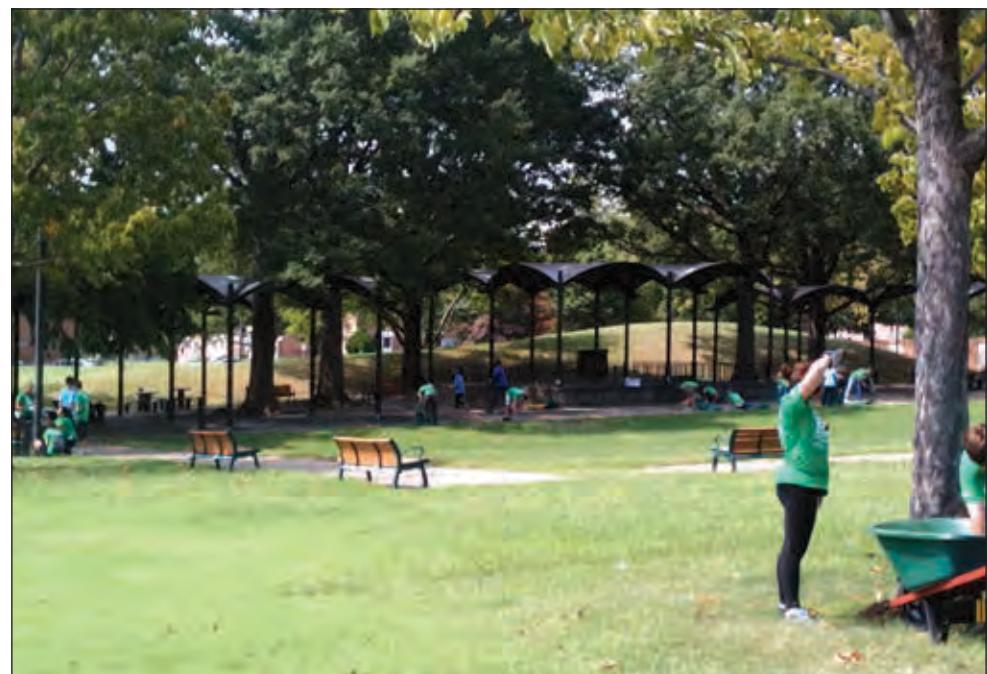
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Dozens helped give Lansburgh Park a facelift on Sept. 8.

## Lansburgh Park Revitalization Efforts Continue

By Kael Anderson

The Friends of Lansburgh Park, Councilmember Wells' Office and District agencies continue to work toward the revitalization of Lansburgh Park. The Department of General Services is on track (as of press time) to convert the abandoned tennis courts into basketball courts by the end of September. We are pleased that this will now include a partial electrification of Lansburgh Park such that we'll have lights illuminating a significant portion of the park.

Another transformation of Lansburgh transpired on Sept. 8. Dozens of George Washington University students descended on the park for a face lift. One group sanded and painted the rusting park furniture – light poles, pavilion and bollards. Another group canvassed the park to clean up trash and organic debris. A final group weeded, edged the sidewalks and pruned shrubs.

Our luck ran out on Sept. 10, the last scheduled movie night of 2012. DPR had some technical difficulties running the equipment. Although DPR agreed to come out for

a rescheduled night, it's unclear if it will occur this year.

The cleanup was part of George Washington's Freshmen Day of Service, during which over 2,300 students spruce up various sites throughout DC. This year was the first time in recent memory GWU came to Southwest. The effort was coordinated by ANC Commissioner Ron McBee and myself and facilitated by DPR, Councilmember Tommy Wells' office and Mayor Gray's Ward 6 rep Brittney Wright. The effort was boosted by Capitol Riverfront resident Bruce DarCante and particularly Gangplank manager J Nickerson. J donated wood chips, tools, a truck and his blood and sweat as he took a chainsaw to several horrendously overgrown shrubs.

The Friends of Lansburgh Park continues to evaluate opportunities to improve and better utilize the park. One plan we're exploring is integrating a mural on the forlorn brick walls. We welcome your support and feedback.

**■ Kael Anderson is President of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA).**

## From The Southwester Staff

As autumn approaches we mark new beginnings at our neighborhood schools, and while some students may be lamenting the end of summer fun, in Southwest the fun is just getting started.

If you're looking for entertainment this month, you don't need to go far - SW ArtsFest returns on Sept. 29 at several locations around the neighborhood (in conjunction with Opera in the Outfield at Nationals Park; all events, including Opera in the Outfield, are free), fol-

lowed by the (e)merge art festival the following weekend (Oct. 4-7 at the Capitol Skyline Hotel).

For the sports-minded the Nationals continue to dazzle. For theater-lovers, at Arena Stage *One Night With Janis Joplin*, which we profiled last month, opens on Sept. 28, while *Red Hot Patriot: The Kick-Ass Wit of Molly Ivins* continues through Oct. 28.

Southwest may be DC's smallest quadrant, but we know how to have a good time!

## ARTSFEST

From p. 1

League bat.

SW ArtsFest would like to thank its generous donors: Barbara Ehrlich, Capitol Skyline Hotel, DC Shorts Film Festival, Documentary Center, Entertainment Cruises, Holiday Inn, Perry Klein, TR SW, the Washington Nationals, the Washington Waterfront Association, and (for their financial contributions) ArtsFest producers Arena Stage, Christ United Methodist

Church, Washington Walks, Hoffman-Madison Waterfront, St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, and Westminster Presbyterian Church. A special thanks for help with marketing to Donna Ledbetter and to MT Rohan Communications and also to Waterfront Station developers Vornado/Charles E. Smith for the use of its M Street lots.

You still have time to volunteer – even after the festival, SW ArtsFest will need volunteers. Contact Meg Brinckman at 202-554-2259 or [mbrinckman@comcast.net](mailto:mbrinckman@comcast.net). Without our donors, contributors and volunteers, Southwest could not have an arts festival.

# Amidon-Bowen School Holds Open House

By Meg Brinckman &  
Ron McBee

**A** U.S. Army Color Guard from Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall presented the colors held to celebrate the remarkable interior makeover at Amidon-Bowen on Sept. 8. JBM-HH is Amidon-Bowen's Partner in Education in Southwest Washington. This impressive ceremony opened the program that officially introduced Amidon-Bowen's "new look" to the community.

The community and former Principal Almeta Hawkins were invited to the Open House co-hosted by the PTA and the Amidon-Bowen faculty and staff. PTA President Marty Welles and staff members guided visitors through the building to see what today's classroom is really like. They saw light, color graphics and space to organize different kind of learning activities in every classroom. Technology for teachers and students to use to realize their educational goals is built in. Ward 6 Delegate to the DC State Board of Education Monica Warren-Jones expressed her pride that a school in Ward 6 was making such strides toward excellence. The message is that we are investing in the future of all children in Southwest D.C.

Amidon-Bowen enjoys a strong relationship with many community groups large and small. In addition to Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, which includes groups from Ft. McNair such as the National Defense University and the Industrial College, Target, the Heart of America Foundation, the Department of Education, Everybody Wins and the Department of Transportation have ongoing programs at Amidon-Bowen.

Mandarin Oriental Hotel held a 5K walk, run (or crawl). After their wonderful breakfast for participants, they made their way around the National Mall on September 9<sup>th</sup> to raise funds for new graded reading material for Amidon-Bowen classrooms to facilitate reading comprehension.

Safeway and Potbelly, supporters of the 1<sup>st</sup> Day Breakfast at



Photo by Perry Klein

*Naomi Mitchell, DC Ward 6 Community Relations, is inspired by Amidon-Bowen's new Dance Studio.*

Amidon-Bowen have made that event a success for four years as well as supporting other smaller events throughout the years that often go unnoticed. This year DC Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) employees at 1100 Fourth St. SW have donated school supplies. Community churches and residents of Southwest have provided school supplies and uniforms for ABES students for several years. Civic organizations such as the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly and the 4<sup>th</sup> St. Neighborhood Group have been available to help in many different ways. Martha's Table will soon resume their "Food for the Mind" program providing fresh fruits, vegetables and staples as well as healthy recipes and cooking instructions.

The list here is certainly not complete. We look forward to highlighting special programs at the school for the coming year by groups large and small. We all need to be fully aware of the extent that this community cares about its youth. For that matter, the youth of SW need to know that many people care and are doing something about it. As President Kennedy said, "One person can make a difference, and everyone should try."

■ *Meg Brinckman is a longtime contributor to The Southwester on education issues. Ron McBee is the ANC Commissioner for single-member district 6D03.*



Photo by Perry Klein

*Amidon-Bowen's computer lab outfitted by 25 computers donated by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and refurbished by SWNA's Technology Task Force.*



Photo by Meg Brinckman

*D.C. Color Guard Soldiers, from Delta Company, 3d US Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard), included the National Color Bearer, Staff Sgt. John Ford from Magnolia, Ark.; Army Color Bearer, Cpl. Simon Smith from Hattiesburg, Miss.; Lead Guard, Spc. Anthony Reese from San Diego, Calif.; and Trail Guard, Pfc. Kevin Wohl from Rochester, Minn. All these men volunteered to come on their off-duty day to Amidon-Bowen for the Saturday Open House.*

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## CH2M HILL Supports Amidon-Bowen

**O**n Sept. 13, CH2M HILL, a global consulting, engineering, construction, and operations firm, donated a check in the amount of \$1,000 to principal Izabela Miller of the Amidon-Bowen Elementary School. The contribution, made by CH2M HILL Vice President Kathleen Penney, is intended to help with the school's ongoing renovation.

CH2M HILL is founded on a culture of service – service to clients, colleagues, and the communities where we live and work. The company is currently providing program management services for the 11th Street Bridges and South Capitol Street Corridor Bridge projects, which are part of the larger Anacostia Waterfront Initiative (AWI). The AWI program involves multiple transportation, land use, and economic development projects within the Anacostia River area in Washington, DC.

# Jefferson Academy Begins Second Year

By Eve Brooks

Jefferson Academy, now beginning its second year, is poised to be an outstanding middle school. Housed in the once magnificent old building, the new school has begun the process of certification as an academically rigorous International Baccalaureate school. Teachers are now preparing the courses they will introduce this spring to meet the high standards. In the next years all signs are that Jefferson will regain its reputation as a pride of the Southwest, and a first choice for students of all backgrounds and abilities. By 2014, the year DCPS has reserved for its renovation, the building as well as the education it supports should return to its old glory.

In its first year in 2011-2012, often a shaky time for new schools, Jefferson Academy's entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade was capped by positive gains in both reading and math on the DC CAS. Principal Natalie Gordon rapidly developed a bevy of community partnerships. Enticing offerings of extra-curricular options typical of schools long underway now encourage students to make the school their second home, staying for developmental activities long after the school day ends.

Underlying it all is a rigorous but supportive learning environment – one that de-emphasizes the drill and kill so typical of today's schools. A respectful and affectionate school culture, with a joyous approach to learning, is undergirded by expectations for academic and behavioral excellence. Students have gotten the message – even studying during recess.

This year there are still two schools occupying the building. However, DCPS has merged the school management under the capable leadership of Ms. Natalie Gordon and her two assistant principals. The three leaders now oversee 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade classes of Jefferson Academy and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class from its processor school, Jeff-



At Jefferson Academy's back-to-school event: Robert Hampton, Crystal Hines, Rakia Amos, Brianna Kirkpatrick and Evan Harris. (Photo by Eve Brooks)

son Middle School. The combined but separate schools are affectionately dubbed the joint educational enterprise "The Jeffersons."

Principal Gordon's appreciation for parent and community involvement were in evidence during the Sept. 13 "Back to School Night." Visitors were greeted as they entered the building by smiling students, and then were warmly greeted by Principal Gordon and her two Vice Principals, Widelene Desarmes and Patrick Rottman. Parent volunteers encouraged their peers to sign up for the PTA and many did. Over 200 parents, siblings and grandparents gathered at the opening assembly, meeting each other and

their children's teachers. Later, teacher Maria Angela reached out to parents, inviting them to participate in Mornings with Moms and Donuts for Dads, early morning gatherings to encourage participation and engagement with the school the education of their children.

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## Seeing the Future

### Amidon-Bowen Students Get Big Welcome

By Meg Brinckman & Ron McBee

A n excited 3rd grader walked into the new, open and welcoming lobby of the renovated Amidon-Bowen Elementary School Aug. 27 exclaiming, "This looks like the future!" When this was reported to Joseph Sullivan, Program Manager for the Office of Public Education Facilities and Modernization, he replied with a broad smile, "That was our vision." Indeed Amidon-Bowen is about the future of every child inside its doors and the future of our community and the District.

Community members came again to Amidon-Bowen Opening Day to welcome students and families to make the connection between the school and the community. Ward 6 Council Member Tommy Wells, and Naomi Mitchell and Bonnie Cain from his office, greeted students and parents. Lt. Colonel Jennifer Blair; Command Master Sergeant Richard Jessup; Mary Ann Hodges, Director of Public Affairs; and Elizabeth Daffin, Education Liaison represented the Military community from Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, an ABES Community Partner. Brittney Wright and Christopher Fitzgerald represented the Mayor's Office of Community Relations as students filed in to begin the school day. Diane Groomes, MPD Assistant Chief, and Commander Daniel Hickson, MPD 1D were there shaking hands. Rev. Adrienne Terry, of Christ United Methodist Church; Ron McBee and Rhonda Hamilton,

ANC6D Commissioners; and Kael Anderson, President of SWNA were there to reinforce that "school" is indeed a "big deal" for everyone. Thelma Jones, Breast Health Educator, provided information and resources on breast health.

The Nationals' Screech was there to the delight of kids and parents. The Nationals are also a Community Partner providing Baseball Clinics, making Ballpark facilities available for the Jefferson Middle School Baseball team or tickets for kids to see games. The Nationals Ball Club has been at bat for kids ever since they arrived on the scene in Southwest.

For four years the Third Street SW Potbelly Sandwiches and the Southwest Safeway have made it possible to offer breakfast to teachers, staff and parents bringing their children to the first day of the school year. Enthusiastic volunteers from Christ United Methodist Church helped greet students and serve food and coffee.

Other VIPs visiting Amidon-Bowen on the first day included Mayor Vincent Gray and Chancellor Kaya Henderson. Principal Miller and PTA President Welles guided them through the colorful classrooms. Ms. Henderson and the mayor met with the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes. They asked the students what they liked about the changes to the school. One student replied everything is "new." They were also asked what changes they wanted to the school. One young man suggested a new playground, which is

See "Welcome," page 7

Course offerings at the schools are designed to meet the needs of students of all abilities and interest levels. Bucking the trend, arts and music are once again part of the school day, with teachers of both subjects on the faculty. In addition to the expected, some innovative courses are found, with a course in Engineering and another in Entrepreneurship being tested this semester. After school offerings are numerous, and include Chess Challenge; Lacrosse; DC Scores Soccer; poetry jams; drama through Voices of Now, Arena Stage's innovative youth program; Kid Power, an enrichment and leadership program; and the Grassroots Project, a health education and AIDS prevention program provided by college athletes.

A social worker, "Wrap-Coordinator" and school psychologist are on faculty. They will soon be complemented by supportive family programs from the Edgewood Brookland Family Strengthening Collaborative. The child welfare-focused agency will be housed in the school's underused lower level with a separate entrance. If all goes as planned the Collaborative will move some of its staff into the building in October. The proximity will enhance their support for both Jefferson and Amidon-Bowen families. If the Collaborative and school leadership are successful, over time Jefferson will become both an International Baccalaureate school and a Community Learning Center a place where the Southwest Community can learn and grow.

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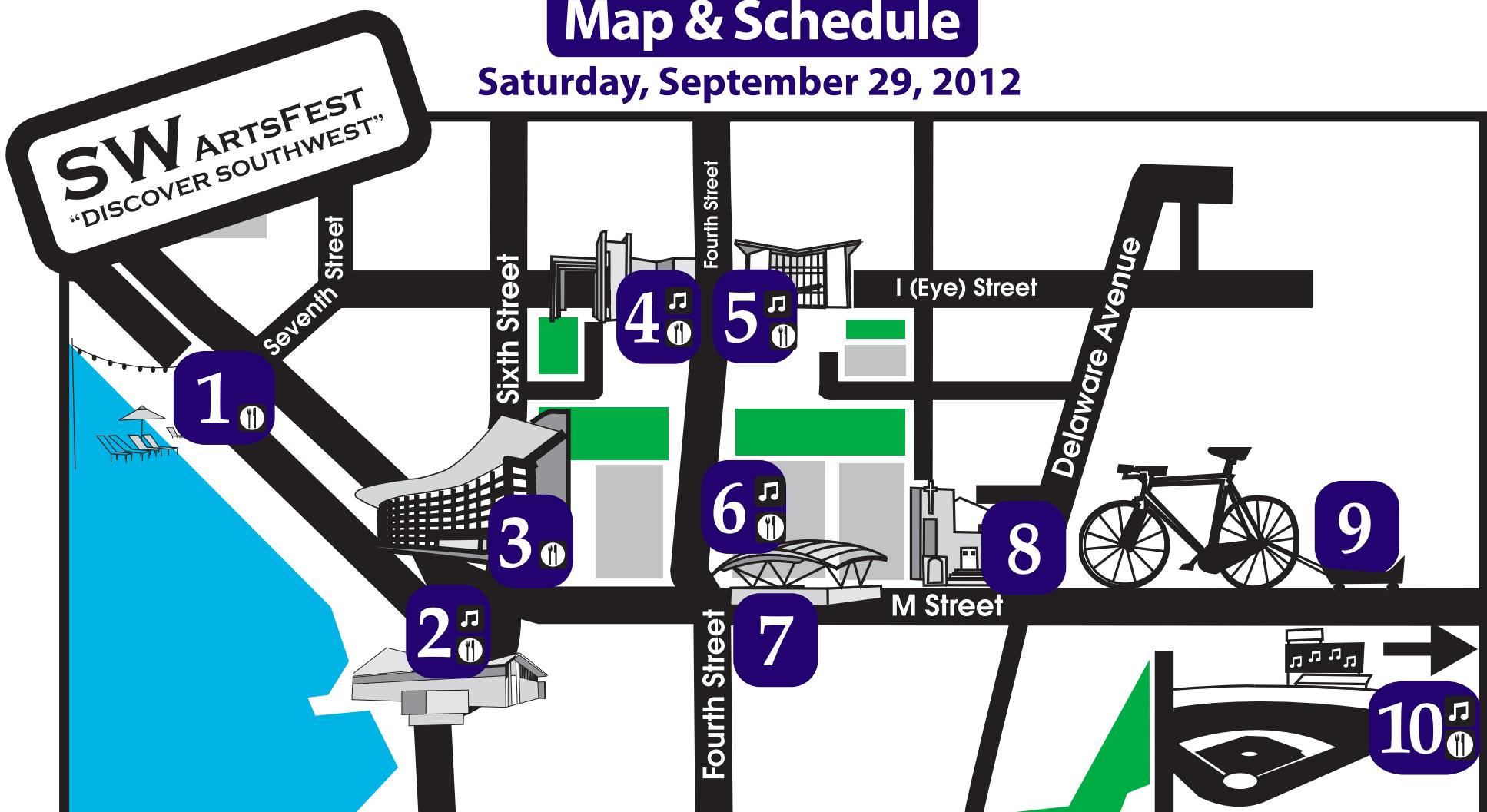
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MSC

## Map & Schedule

### Saturday, September 29, 2012



**1** Sock-Puppet Art Studio  
The Wharf on Southwest Waterfront, 700 Water St., SW

**2** End-of-Summer Fair  
St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M St., SW

**3** Hand Dancing and Theater Tours  
Arena Stage, 1101 Sixth St., SW

**4** 11th Annual DC Jazz Preservation Festival  
Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I (Eye) St., SW

**5** Farmers' Market and Film Series  
Christ United Methodist Church, 900 Fourth St., SW

**6** Central Art Market  
In front of Safeway, M and Fourth Streets, SW

**7** Neighborhood Walking Tours  
Meet at Waterfront Metrorail station, 401 M St., SW

**8** Find the Art in the Flea Market  
Second Union Baptist Church, 1107 Delaware Ave., SW

**9** Parade of Decorated Bicycles  
From Yards Park to Fourth Street, SW

**10** Opera in the Outfield: *Don Giovanni*  
Nationals Park, 1500 S. Capitol St., SE

Food for sale

Live music

Admission to all SW ArtsFest events is free.

**2** 9 A.M. to 4 P.M. - End-of-Summer Fair  
St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M St., SW  
Live music, arts, crafts, raffle and rummage sale, kids' activities. Food for sale. To participate or for more information, email [office@staugustinesdc.org](mailto:office@staugustinesdc.org) or call 202-554-3222.

**5** 9 A.M. to 7 P.M. - Farmers' Market and Film Series  
Christ United Methodist Church, 900 Fourth St., SW  
Farmers' market, yard sale, choir and liturgical dancing from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Film series from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. To participate or for more information, email [rokofages@yahoo.com](mailto:rokofages@yahoo.com) or call 202-554-9117.

**8** 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. - Find the Art in the Flea Market  
Second Union Baptist Church, 1107 Delaware Ave., SW  
Arts and crafts, jewelry, photographs, pottery, vintage clothing, water and soft drinks. To participate or for more information, call 202-486-1521.

**6** 10 A.M. to 6 P.M. - Central Art Market  
NE corner of M and Fourth Streets, SW, at Safeway  
Arts, crafts, food, vendors and live entertainment.  
To participate or for more information email [info@nagaaevents.com](mailto:info@nagaaevents.com) or call 202-681-6628.

**7** 11 A.M. and 2 P.M. - Neighborhood Walking Tours  
Leaving from Waterfront Metrorail station, 401 M St., SW  
11 a.m. - *Renewing Urban Renewal* and 2 p.m. - *Southwest Waterfront: From Watermen to Wreckers to "The Wharf."* 90 minutes each. For more information call 202-484-1565.

**1** 11 A.M. to 5 P.M. - Sock-Puppet Art Studio  
7th Street Landing, 700 Water St., SW  
Do-it-yourself sock-puppet art studio, fresh barbecue. For more information call 202-688-3590 or go to [www.wharfdc.com](http://www.wharfdc.com).

**3** 12 NOON to 6 P.M. - Hand Dancing and Theater Tours  
Arena Stage, 1101 Sixth St., SW  
Hand-dancing performances and workshops, starting outside on the corner plaza, proceeding to the Ammerman Rehearsal Hall (Terrace Level). Also, hourly guided tours of the Mead Center for American Theater. For more information email [durquhart@arenastage.org](mailto:durquhart@arenastage.org), call 202-600-4023 or visit [www.arenastage.org/swartsfest](http://www.arenastage.org/swartsfest).

**4** 12 NOON to 8 P.M. - 11th Annual DC Jazz Preservation Festival  
Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I (Eye) St., SW  
Annual jazz festival with crafts and food for sale. To participate or for more information, call 202-484-7700 or go to [www.westminsterdc.org](http://www.westminsterdc.org).

**9** 1 P.M. to 2 P.M. - Parade of Decorated Bicycles  
From FIGMENT at Yards Park along M Street to Fourth Street, SW. For more information or to participate email [contact@bicyclespacedc.com](mailto:contact@bicyclespacedc.com) or call 202-962-0125. FIGMENT DC takes place from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. For more information visit [www.dc.figmentproject.org](http://www.dc.figmentproject.org).

**10** 5 P.M. to 10:30 P.M. - Opera in the Outfield: *Don Giovanni*  
Nationals Park, 1500 South Capitol St., SE  
Pre-opera entertainment at 5 p.m.; opera 7 to 10:30 p.m. Food for sale. For more information call 202-416-8453 or 202-467-4600, or visit [www.operaintheoutfield.org](http://www.operaintheoutfield.org).

[www.swdcartsfest.org](http://www.swdcartsfest.org)

[facebook.com/SWArtsFest](https://facebook.com/SWArtsFest)

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## College for Kids

By Thelma Jones

Students ages 9 to 12 can learn in six Saturdays under the College for Kids Program that college is for them. Professionals will explain college life to the students and arrange a visit to a college campus – all under the sponsorship of the National Congress of Black Women (NCBW) and the Youth Activities Task Force (YATF) of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly.

Led by National Chair Dr. E. Faye Williams, a Southwest resident, NCBW is a nonprofit headquartered in Southwest that works to secure women's rights, among other things. The College for Kids Program is designed to develop an awareness of diverse career opportunities for today's youth.

Through presentations by professionals, the students will learn the nature, significance and qualifications for various professions, including meeting with various professionals. In addition, students will learn conflict resolution methods, attend cultural events, learn life skills and concepts and ways to take care of their health.

Parents with middle school children, ages 9-12, should register for the program by calling or emailing Thelma Jones at (202) 488-3746 or [tjones15@verizon.net](mailto:tjones15@verizon.net). Seating is limited.

Thelma Jones is chair of the SWNA Youth Activities Task Force and a veteran writer for The Southwester.

## Fraud Prevention is AARP Topic

Idris J. Abdullah, Consumer Protection Advocate, DC Department of Insurance, Securities, and Banking, will discuss "Senior Financial Fraud Prevention" at the next AARP-Southwest Waterfront chapter meeting.

The meeting is at noon, Oct. 17, in the River Park Mutual Homes community room, 1311 Delaware Ave. SW. Current and prospective AARP members are welcome.

For information, contact Chapter President Evelyn Dorsey at [Dorseyear@aol.com](mailto:Dorseyear@aol.com) or 202-488-9685.

## Thank You...

The Southwest Comm-Unity Forum Committee would like to recognize and thank the following donors and organizations for their generous support that helped make the first annual Summer in Lansburgh Park Event a success.

1. Friends of Southwest DC
2. H2TO – Higher Hopes to the Outcomes
3. Washington Nationals
4. Base Connect, Inc.
5. U.S.A. Motor, Inc.
6. Friendly Food Market
7. Shulman's Liquor
8. ANC 6D
9. SWNA
10. MPD 1-D
11. EBFSC – Edgewood/Brookland Family Support Collaborative
12. P.I.W. – Psychiatric Institute of Washington
13. SW Cavaliers
14. DC Fire & EMS Dept.

## Highlights of ANC 6D Meeting

Courtesy of Bob Craycraft, ANC 6D01  
Commissioner & ANC Secretary

### Sept. 10, 2012

Jason Kopp, President of the Gangplank Slipholders Association, advised that his organization had reached agreement with the developers of The Wharf and thanked the ANC and other community members for their support.

Chairman Litsky and Commissioners Garber and McBee updated attendees on the future of the local United States Postal Service (USPS) branch on M Street SW, which is scheduled to close by the end of 2012 due to the property owner opting not to renew the USPS lease. The postmaster for the District of Columbia has advised that the USPS is attempting to negotiate with the owner of the property for the current post office to stay open.

Chairman Litsky introduced Gordon Fraley and David Smith, representing Forest City and Vornado, respectively, as the developers of Waterfront Station to request a two-year extension for Stage 1 PUD, specifically the Southwest and Northeast Parcels. Commissioner Craycraft introduced a resolution opposing the extension, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Garber introduced John Bergert, Vice President Development of MRP Realty, to update the ANC on proposed changes to the former Florida Rock site immediately south of the Nationals Ballpark and adjacent to the Anacostia River. Commissioner Garber moved to support the plan as proposed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Shockley and passed by a vote of 5-2-0 with Commissioners Hamilton and McBee opposing the revised plan.

Chairman Litsky introduced Juan Cameron of McCaverty Interests to share their plans for Square 701, which is bounded by M, First and N streets SE and Cushing Place Alley SE; the block between Nationals Ballpark and the Navy Yard Metro station. Commissioner Garber moved that the ANC support the development as proposed. Commissioner Shockley seconded the motion which passed by a vote of 6-0-1 with Commissioner McBee abstaining.

Commissioner Garber discussed the interest from CSX for a curb cut on 861 New Jersey Ave. SE, near I Street. Commissioner Garber moved the ANC oppose the new curb cut request. Commissioner Craycraft seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 6-0-1 with Commissioner McBee abstaining.

## Computer for Kids

By Thelma Jones

YATF is gearing up for its fall Computer for Kids Program, which has been in existence since October 2007, graduating approximately 70 youth between the ages 6-13. As in the past, students will learn computer application skills in Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.

In addition, the students will learn keyboarding, the function and parts of the computer and how to do internet searches. Students will also broaden their knowledge through teachable moments while learning and engaging in the importance of eating

healthy, including during snack time at the computer class. Instructor Frank Fu is eagerly working to ensure that, beginning with this class, all graduating students will receive a refurbished computer within a couple weeks of completing the class.

Computer for Kids classes will start after the Columbus Day Weekend. Parents interested in enrolling their kids for this program should contact Thelma Jones at (202) 488-3746 or [tjones15@verizon.net](mailto:tjones15@verizon.net).

Thelma Jones is chair of the SWNA Youth Activities Task Force and a veteran writer for The Southwester.

## WELCOME

From p. 5

scheduled for this fall. A girl said she wanted a longer school day! The chancellor noted it has been discussed but there are many things to consider!

The changes made in the Amidon-Bowen Building over the summer in 60 days are noth-

ing short of amazing. They provide a greatly improved setting for teachers, staff, parents and the community to do the important and difficult task of giving every student the education they need and deserve.

Meg Brinckman is a longtime contributor to The Southwester on education issues. Ron McBee is the ANC Commissioner for single-member district 6D03.

## Allen A. Flood, M.D.

### DERMATOLOGY

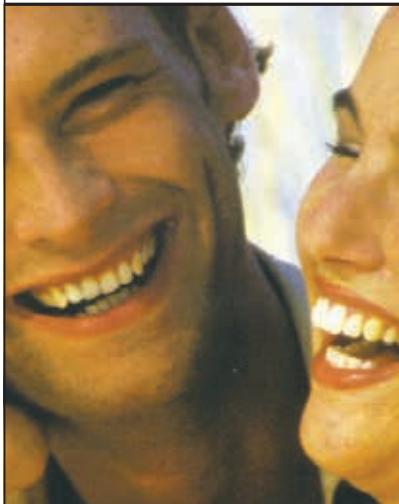
- DISEASES OF THE SKIN, HAIR AND NAILS
- SKIN CANCER SCREENING
- NARROW BAND UVB PHOTOTHERAPY
  - Psoriasis
  - Vitiligo
- BOTOX
- JUVADERM FILLERS

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## October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

By Thelma D. Jones

**A**re you 40 years or older? Do you have a family history of breast cancer? Are you in need of assistance to arrange a screening for breast health? If you answer "yes" to any of these questions, community breast care navigator Thelma Jones, Smith Center for the Healing and the Arts, welcomes a call or email from you at (202) 488-3746 or [tjones15@verizon.net](mailto:tjones15@verizon.net). With the advent of Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October, Jones would like to remind women (and men) about annual breast cancer screening.

The American Cancer Society recommends these breast cancer screening guidelines for most adults.

Yearly mammograms are recommended starting at age 40 and continuing for as long as a woman is in good health;

Clinical breast exam (CBE) about every 3 years for women in their 20s and 30s and every year for women 40 and over;

Women should know how their breasts normally look and feel and report any breast change promptly to their health care provider. Breast self-exam (BSE) is an option for women starting in their 20s.



Also, according to the American Cancer Society, some women – because of their family history, a genetic tendency, or certain other factors – should be screened with MRI in addition to mammograms. (The number of women who fall into this category is small: less than 2% of all the women in the US.) Talk with your doctor about your history and whether you should have additional tests at an earlier age.

For the fourth consecutive year, Jones invites you to join "Team TJ" at the annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer 5-K fundraising walk at the Sylvan Theatre, National Mall on Saturday, Oct. 20. Registration begins at 9 a.m. and the event starts at 10 a.m. Join "Team TJ" and sign up for the walk at [cancer.org/stridesonline](http://cancer.org/stridesonline). Registration fee is \$25. For more information, please call or email Thelma Jones at (202) 488-3746 or [tjones15@verizon.net](mailto:tjones15@verizon.net).

**■ Thelma D. Jones is a breast cancer survivor, a staunch volunteer for the American Cancer Society and a community breast care navigator for Smith Center for Healing and the Arts.**

## Tour Southwest's Floating Homes

By the Southwester Staff

**T**he floating homes of Gangplank Marina will be open to the public on Saturday, Oct. 20.

The event is located on the Southwest waterfront, along the Washington Channel. Gangplank Marina is a 309-slip marina just steps from the National Mall and its many monuments and museums, and is the largest liveaboard community on the East Coast.

The tour will run in two shifts from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and tickets are available online at the web site [www.dchouseboat.org](http://www.dchouseboat.org). The tour is expected to sell out, so advance tickets are required (tickets will not be available on the day of the tour). Tickets are \$20, though residents of the 20024 zip code can take advantage of a "neighbor discount price" of \$15 per ticket. A

portion of the proceeds from the tour ticket sales will benefit local charities in Southwest D.C.

Visitors who would like to get out on the water can take advantage of a special offer from tour partner DC Harbor Cruises, also based at Gangplank Marina. Tickets for a 60-minute Potomac cruise are available at a special discounted rate of \$15, also from our website [www.dchouseboat.org](http://www.dchouseboat.org) (cruise tickets alone are usually priced at \$30). Available cruise departure times are 12:30 and 1:45 p.m.

The Southwest D.C. Boat-Home Tour is sponsored by the Gangplank Slipholders Association, which is a nonprofit volunteer organization representing the boaters of Gangplank Marina, and the Port of Washington Yacht Club, a nonprofit social club promoting boating and Potomac stewardship. Additional information can be found at [www.dchouseboat.org](http://www.dchouseboat.org).



## Pictures from Palestine

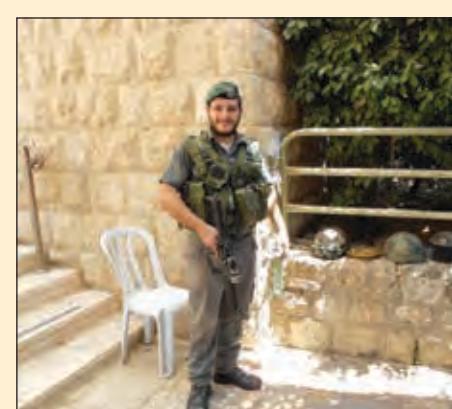
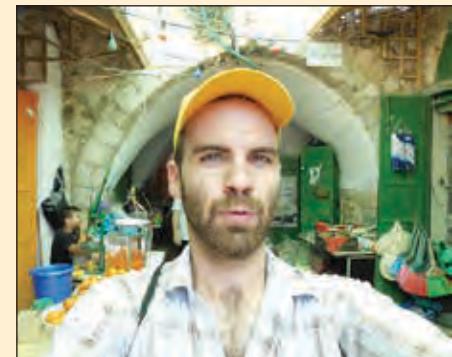
By Matthew Johnson

**F**or those who have never been to the land of Palestine, whose name alone is heavily politicized, this is but a glimpse of my two-week tour this past July with Interfaith Peacebuilders ([www.ifpb.org](http://www.ifpb.org)), a non-profit organization based in DC that sends multiple delegations each year to learn about the Palestinian-



Israeli conflict, report back on their experiences and advocate for change. I and more than 20 other Americans (and one Colombian) visited numerous cities and towns in the West Bank. These are some of my favorite photos. They tell a more interesting story than words ever could.

**■ Matthew Johnson is a two-year resident of Tiber Island.**



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Either early or on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> -- Vote for Roger



# MOFFATT

## ANC 6D-05

Area growth demands Commissioner with *know-how* to positively direct it.  
A 16-year ANC service gives me that *know-how* --- *I hope you agree!*  
I will continue to: Advocate for sensible development, Press to limit on-street parking for new buildings (RPP), Promote bicycle education/ safety. Always championing your interests!

Again, I hope you agree and will **Vote for Roger MOFFATT**

Paid for by Roger Moffatt for ANC 6D05, Summary Financial Report to be filed with DC OCF

# Secular Columbarium for the Island

By Leigh Davis

This October I will install a new art project, Secular Columbarium for the Island, at the (e)merge art fair in the Capitol Skyline Hotel. When I saw the call for on-site projects, I knew I wanted to create a work that was connected somehow to Southwest DC, where the hotel is located.

The installation I am creating is what I call a "mythologization" of Southwest (known in the nineteenth century as "the Island"). My project is a way to create an experience inside the fair that connects viewers to the surrounding community and neighborhoods, and in order to make it a reality I would love to speak with residents of the area about their experiences of living in Southwest.

A columbarium is a chamber housing urns holding the remains of the deceased, as well as intimate statements and private gestures; the urns often contain snapshots, drawings, toys and other keepsakes of a life past. Each niche in the columbarium is a tiny room, a stage upon which the deceased continue to perform their "last words" through objects and gestures.

The installation I will build is an imagined memorial, in which artifacts from Southwest's recent and distant history will mix with more

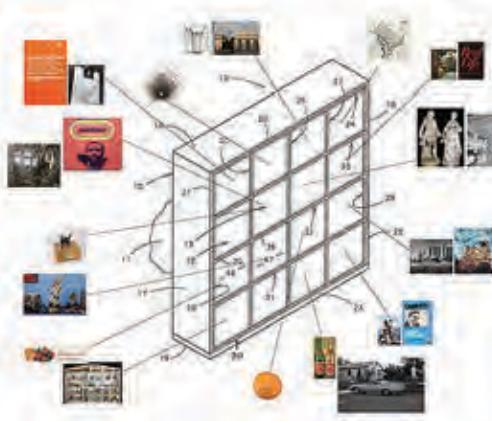


Illustration courtesy of Leigh Davis.

loosely-associated objects of my choosing. The items that will fill the columbarium are inspired by archival research, content gleaned online and personal interviews, enmeshed with my own thoughts and perceptions of the neighborhood. My goal is not to make something nostalgic, nor to try and recapture the area's past, but to use the diverse elements I can gather to create a semi-fictional narrative about the very vibrant and present place in which the project will be located.

Speaking with residents of Southwest DC would be invaluable in helping to make this

project meaningful. Books and websites can only tell me so much about the area. To me, nothing is better to me than speaking in person, to ask questions and listen to what residents have to say about their lives in the present. Former residents and others familiar with the neighborhood and its changes (past, present and/or pending future) are also invited to contact me.

Please contact me by phone or email if you (or others you know) have an interest in speaking with me about the project and your experiences in Southwest DC. I am interested in everything: personal accounts, everyday rituals, affiliations with organizations and churches, childhood memories,

music preferences, or just your opinion about the neighborhood. Your voices are what will make this project interesting for me to create and for viewers to experience this fall. Thank you for your interest.

Contact by phone: (347) 341-1875 Or email: davis.leigh@gmail.com

Leigh Davis is one of 152 artists whose work will be displayed at the (e)merge art fair from Oct. 4-7 at the Capitol Skyline Hotel. She currently resides in Brooklyn, NY.

## CENTER

From p. 1

sioner Ron McBee and 1<sup>st</sup> District Metropolitan Police Commander Daniel Hickson. Terri Odom, Director of the DC Superior Court's Family Court Social Services Division and Lee Satterfield, Chief Judge of the DC Superior Court, kicked off the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

"At this center, we have juvenile probation officers who really care about our youth," said Satterfield. "And we have a community that wants to see these kids succeed and exceed people's expectations. What we have here today is a coming together of positive forces, all working for the good of the community."

The Center is an alternative to detention for youth living in the Southwest who are awaiting trial and need a higher level of supervision, and also youth on probation who are at risk of having their probation revoked because they are not complying with court-ordered conditions. The Center will also serve as a satellite probation office, so youth from Southwest can see their probation officers and also access services in

their own community.

The program is designed to provide more structure than a weekly or bi-weekly check in with probation officers. Participating youth will take part in a number of pro-social activities including: tutoring, learning labs, mentoring, education and prevention groups, life-skills, vocational training, community service, restorative justice, indoor recreation and field trips.

Refreshments, as well as family-style dinners, will be provided and youth will take part in the 'Real Men and Women Cook' program, which focuses on meal preparation skills.

The new facility is the third BARJ Drop-In Center in the city, serving as a national model for the restorative justice approach, encompassing education, rehabilitation and community service, with a focus on the youth, community and victim.

The Southwest BARJ Drop-In Center will be open Monday through Saturday and will serve court-involved youth and their families. It will also be accessible to the community when it is not operating services and programs for the youth it serves.

## PROJECT

From p. 1

running the plant without obtaining a new permit (now under stricter regulations).

Hoffman-Madison-Waterfront (HMW) is planning to build a Southwest Waterfront Co-generation plant that will produce steam for heating and electricity. The proposed power plant will probably burn natural gas, but might also burn #2 fuel oil as a back-up. HMW is currently going through DC's Environmental Impact Screening Form process. Ideally, Mike reports, "HMW would design a solar hot water system with passive solar heating integrated in their buildings, to use heat pumps to meet the

rest of their heating needs, and to buy wind power from the grid to meet their electricity demand so they don't need to burn any fuel."

Under the leadership of Senator Reid and Congresswoman Pelosi, the Capitol Power Plant was to switch from burning coal to natural gas. Although it hasn't been the wholesale change originally envisioned, the plant has reduced its coal usage. DDOE is now reviewing early drafts of a plan to increase co-generation capacity. Currently it's just a heating plant, but under the plan it would also become an electricity plant. Two 7.5 megawatt units are proposed, relatively small for a coal power plant.

Kael Anderson is President of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA).

## Want to Go? (e)merge Art Fair

By Sheila Wickouski

**WHAT:** (e)merge Art Fair. Over 152 artists from 24 countries will show new works in performance, installation, painting, sculpture, video and other media on three levels of the Capitol Skyline Hotel in this year's 2012 (e)merge Art Fair. The fair also includes panel discussions on the arts and many special projects and performances throughout each day.

**WHERE:** The Capitol Skyline Hotel at 10 "I" St. SW

**OPENING NIGHT PREVIEW:** Oct. 4, from 7 p.m. – 11 p.m. Be the first to see the fair and a concert by the pool by Thievery Corporation (with Eric Hilton) – \$45 advance purchase (\$60 at the door).

### FAIR SCHEDULE & ADMISSION

Friday, October 5: 12 p.m. - 7 p.m.  
Students with valid ID free: 12 p.m. - 3 p.m.  
Saturday, October 6: 12 p.m. - 7 p.m.  
Sunday, October 7: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.  
Daily admission is \$15 - \$10 for Seniors and Students with valid ID.

### MORE INFORMATION & TICKETS

[www.emergeartfair.com/visitor-info/](http://www.emergeartfair.com/visitor-info/)

*Cara Shockley*



*Write-in  
Candidate*

*ANC6D02*

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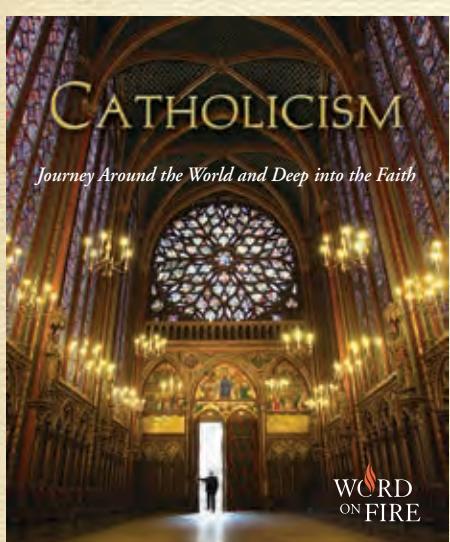


Indian restaurant now open in Southwest, located at 1548 First Street, SW, next door to Shulman Liquors. Featuring all-day buffet, takeout and free delivery with \$20 order  
Catering available  
Pizza also featured - no extra charge for toppings  
Open for breakfast at 7:30 am on weekdays, 9 am on Saturdays and 10 am on Sundays.

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## CATHOLICISM

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-Brad Miner, *The Catholic Thing* blog

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Father Robert Barron is an acclaimed author, theologian and podcasting priest from Chicago, and one of the world's great and most innovative teachers of the Catholic faith. He is the founder of **Word on Fire Catholic Ministries**.

### DATE, TIMES & LOCATION:

Every Sunday from October 7 to December 16  
Time: 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.  
St. Dominic Church  
630 E Street, SW  
(Meeting room is mid-block on the lower level)

### REGISTRATION:

No RSVP or registration required.

All are welcome.

### CONTACT:

St. Dominic Church office  
202-554-7863 or  
[www.stdominicchurch.org](http://www.stdominicchurch.org)



Fact sheet and content information at [http://wordonfire.org/Cath\\_FactSheet.html](http://wordonfire.org/Cath_FactSheet.html)

## Oh! The Places You'll Go!

By D. Sherwood Chamberlain  
Inspired by Dr. Seuss (1904-1991)

*"Congratulations! Today is your day. You're off to Great Places! You're off and away!"*

Nearly a dozen years have passed since I called Washington home. When I decided to move back to my hometown, after spending a decade in rural New York, I chose to live in Southwest where I bought an apartment at the historic River Park with its unique aluminum architecture. I was enthralled with the proximity to shopping, entertainment, museums, The Wharf, Nationals Stadium and of course, the charming Duck Pond.

I felt quite sophisticated standing outside CVS proudly admiring my newly purchased SmarTrip Card. Its soft hues of blue and green proclaimed the wonders of the Nation's Capital, all within easy access by Metrobus or rail from my new home.

*"You have brains in your head, you have feet in your shoes, you can steer yourself any*

*direction you choose."*

Blissfully embracing my new car-free life, I parked my Town & Country minivan in my assigned parking space, pulled on my Reeboks and jauntily walked a block and a half to the Waterfront Metro Station. My destination was a small museum near McPherson Square for a one o'clock panel discussion about famous American women.

After finally realizing the McPherson Square Metro Stop was not on the Red Line, and a change or two of trains, I arrived at the museum ten minutes before the end of the program. I must have missed a good one because the audience enthusiastically applauded the speakers.

I sat outside Cosi's in a black wrought iron chair easing my disappointment with a pesto chicken sandwich and large coffee. Staying on the Green Line until I learned how to follow the Metro map seemed the prudent thing to do.

*"Out there things can happen, and fre-*

*See "Places," page 11*

## Community Calendar

View our on-line calendar at [www.swdc.org/calendar](http://www.swdc.org/calendar).

### OCTOBER

**THURS 4, 8 - 9:30 A.M.** Councilman Tommy Wells office hours, Channel Inn café, 7th & Water streets SW.

**THURS 4 - SUN 7 (e)MERGE ART FAIR** from 4th-7th Capitol Skyline Hotel, 101 Eye Street S.W., Washington, DC 20024. 488-7500

#### OPENING PREVIEW:

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4: 7 P.M. - 9 P.M.** Concert by the Pool, 9 - 11pm by: Thievery Corporation with Eric Hilton *ticketed* event. \$45 advance (\$60 at the door)

**FAIR HOURS:** FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5: 12PM – 7PM; Saturday, October 6: 12pm – 7pm Sunday, October 7: 12pm – 5pm. ADMISSION \$15 (\$10 Seniors and Students/ valid ID)

**SAT 6, 4 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.** Experience Yoga Nidra at Westminster "Jazz" Church, 400 I St. SW. Pamela Wilson guides a very deep, conscious relaxation, with the opportunity to set your intention. No experience in Yoga or meditation necessary. A donation of \$10 is suggested. For more information call 202-746-6654 or email: [wilsonpj108@verizon.net](mailto:wilsonpj108@verizon.net)

**MON 8, 7-10 P.M.** ANC6D Monthly Public Meeting, 1100 Fourth St. S.W., DCRA Hearing Room on 2nd floor.

**MON 22, 7-8:30 P.M.** SWNA Meeting, 600 M Street S.W.

**SAT 27, 1 P.M.** Kitchen Table Book Discussion, SW Library, 900 Wesley Place SW. Copies of October selection 'Reading Lolita in Tehran' by Azar Nafisi are available at the library.

### WEEKLY, BIWEEKLY

**AARP-SOUTHWEST WATERFRONT CHAPTER 4751**, Third Wednesday of each month. River Park Mutual Homes community room, 1311 Delaware Ave. SW. For further information, contact Chapter President Evelyn Dorsey, [Dorseyp@comcast.net](mailto:Dorseyp@comcast.net) or 202-488-9685.

**AYA COMMUNITY MARKETS** "a farmers market and holistic health experience," every Saturday Aug. 4-Nov 17, Christ United Methodist Church, 900 4th Street SW. Visit: [ayamarkets.org](http://ayamarkets.org). phone: 202-332-1306. Provides resources for healthy and sustainable communities through farm fresh produce; educational health speakers and live musical performances; locally produced handmade crafts and baked goods; art, youth activities and more.

**BLUES MONDAYS, 6 P.M. - 9 P.M.**, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I Street S.W., Various Blue musicians and singers featured each Monday. \$5. Food for sale.

**COMPUTER CLASSES, THURSDAY** 10 a.m.-noon, SW Library, 900 Wesley Place SW.

**THURS 4** **No Class**

**THURS 11** **Introduction to the Internet**

**THURS 18** **The DC Public Library website**

**THURS 25** **Email Basics**

**NOV 1** **Microsoft Word**

**HAND DANCING CLASSES**, Jitterbug, Lindy Hop, Saturdays, 12 p.m.-2 p.m. Classes by Markus Smith of Swing Anatomy Dance. \$10/class for adults, \$5/class for children 8-17. Christ United Methodist Church, 900 Fourth St. SW., Community room off Wesley Place SW.

**JAZZ NIGHT IN SW**, Fridays, 6-9 p.m. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I St. SW. Various Jazz musicians and singers featured each Friday. \$5. Food for sale.

**THE KIWANIS CLUB OF SOUTHWEST WATERFRONT**, Christ United Methodist Church, 900 Fourth St. SW, every first and third Monday from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

**WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS**, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I St. SW, 4 p.m. Seated Yoga and Healing Sessions (Pamela Wilson and Riva Wine). 5 p.m. Tai Chi (Manifest Ra). 5:30 p.m. Laughter Yoga (Claire Trivedi). 6:45 p.m. Sampoorna Yoga (Alex Rosen). 7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous SW Free-Way Meeting

**WEDNESDAY EVENING CHESS**, 6:30-8:30 p.m., SW Library, 900 Wesley Place SW.

**POLICE SERVICE AREA 105**, Community meeting, every Third Thursday, 7-8 p.m., 800 Fourth St. SW, community room.

**POLICE SERVICE AREA 106**, Community meeting, every last Saturday, 10-11 a.m., Senior Citizen Community Room, 900 Fifth St. SE.

**PRE SCHOOL STORYTIME**, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10-11:30 a.m., SW Library, 900 Wesley Place SW.

**SOUTHWEST RENEWAL AA**, Alcoholics Anonymous group, Mondays, 8:30 p.m., St. Augustine's Church, 600 M St. SW., (202) 554-3222

**SOUTHWEST SEWING GROUP**, Mondays, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., St. Augustine's Church, 600 M St. SW, Contact Mary Henderson at (301) 336-9058. Open to all interested in working on their own sewing projects and/or machine sewing skills. Mondays, except June, July and August.

**SW FREEWAY, NA**, Narcotics Anonymous group, Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m.,

**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**, 400 I St. SW.

**WASHINGTON STAMP COLLECTOR'S CLUB**, 7-9 p.m. First and Third Wednesday each month. Buy, trade and sell stamps Refreshments, auctions and programs. Christ United Methodist Church, 900 Fourth St. SW. 202-291-6229

**ZUMBA GOLD, 11 A.M. - NOON FRIDAYS**, Low-impact exercise/dance class for seniors, at King Greenleaf Recreation Center, 201 N St. SW. Free.

**Please submit calendar items by the 13th day of the preceding month to [calendar@thesouthwester.com](mailto:calendar@thesouthwester.com).**

# PLACES

From p. 10

*quently do, to people as brainy and footsy as you.”*

The National Archives is a vast resource for distinguished authors' talks and lectures. It is also on the Green Line. I expertly tapped my SmarTrip card, boarded the train and congratulated myself when I arrived at the Archives Metro Stop. I felt very humble standing in the quiet dark Rotunda viewing The Charters of Freedom and the scholarly presentation on the

War of 1812 was excellent.

The majestic vista from the steps of the Archives Building presented an immense menu of museums and attractions offering an abundance of opportunities to discover more about our nation's history, art and landscapes. Deciding I had enough cerebral stimulation for the day, I crossed Constitution Avenue heading for my favorite Washington attraction; the Smithsonian's Merry-go-Round.

*"Simple it's not, I'm afraid you will find,  
for a mind-maker-upper to make up his  
mind."*

I successfully navigated Metro and soon

smugly exited at the Waterfront Station. A half hour later I emerged from the impressive new Safeway weighed down with two heavy white plastic bags bulging with fresh produce and scrumptious items from the deli. Okay, perhaps they were scrumptious items from the bakery, but they were still heavy. Ten minutes later and with my arms two inches longer, I entered my apartment and immediately added to my shopping list reusable grocery bags and a grocery cart.

It will take awhile to get acclimated to my new urban lifestyle and exciting neighborhood with all it has to offer. I am looking forward to Neighbors' Night at Arena Stage, cheering for

the Nats at the new stadium, fresh Maryland crabs from the Maine Avenue Fish Market, the Southwest Arts Festival and eventually becoming an expert at deciphering the Metro map.

*"You're on your own. And you know what you know. And YOU are the guy who'll decide where to go."*

■ *D. Sherwood Chamberlain is a professional speaker and writer specializing in the history of America's First Ladies. You can view her website at: [www.deborahjonessherwood.com](http://www.deborahjonessherwood.com).*

# Southwest D.C.: It's all yours.

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Notes on the Nats:

# Worth Half a Thousand Words

Sometimes 30 days to write a monthly sports column is a difficult parameter and it is necessary to paint a photograph to accompany the text. That's why you now see this one.

This is a color photo. The background color is "Pennant Race." It blankets the cityscape like a first heavy New Year snowfall. A unifying layer of refreshingly genuine patriotism and shared goal of achievement that gently transforms the alternate universe of an endless election season in the Nation's capital. It is magical.

The contrast color, therefore – I need another color because otherwise you can't see anything but one blob of color – is "Magic Number." That means that my painting has slowly, steadily and with great suspense, shrunk, day by day, Nationals win by Braves loss, until...

## Nationals Know – National Pundits No

The reality that the Washington Nationals have actually shut down ace starting pitcher Steven Strasburg set off a near-unanimous, coast-to-coast maelstrom of criticism. Angry back-seat-driving pundits included retired baseball heroes, an ex-Nats TV broadcaster and Tommy John himself, the surgically-repaired pitcher that Strasburg's elbow ligament reconstruction procedure was named after.

Neither the Nationals organization nor Steven Strasburg should pass up a once-in-decades opportunity to win the World Series. That is the gist of the criticism. And it is an argument that, like much of the criticism angrily directed at our Capital City's most powerful resident, sounds like it makes sense, but does so only if you accept false assumptions that are stated as if

they are factual.

But this is not a one-shot-only opportunity for the Washington Nationals. This is not a career-peaking but aging team that must risk one player's future to go for broke in an attempt to win now.

The 2012 Nationals are very young, deeply talented and still developing. The starting pitching rotation, with Steven Strasburg, Gio Gonzalez, Jordan Zimmermann, Edwin Jackson, Ross Detwiler and John Lannan, even now subtracting an ace starter, is good enough to win this year. The Nats bullpen, with Drew Storen, Tyler Clippard, Sean Burnett, Craig Stammen, Ryan Mattheus, Tom Gorzellany and newcomer Christian Garcia, not to mention Henry Rodriguez, is equally talented and completes the best

pitching staff in baseball. And with Strasburg returning healthy, it will be formidable for years to come.

The Nats infield of Zimmerman, Desmond, Espinosa, Lombardozzi and LaRoche compares favorably with anyone, both offensively and defensively. Speed, range, power and athleticism.

The outfield is increasingly becoming a team strength. Bryce Harper has rapidly developed defensively right before our eyes. Jason Werth has been a tremendous asset in the lineup as a lead-off hitter with an exceptional knack for getting on base. Michael Morse, Roger Bernadina and Tyler Moore have been consistent offensive producers.

The catching duo of Jesus Flores and Kurt Suzuki call pitches for the best-performing staff

in the game and, therefore, nothing else need be said.

And the bench, led by Chad Tracy, has, remarkably, been as good as the rest of their first-place teammates.

Team management knows all this, the Nationals players know it, and the local fan-base knows it. In time, it will also be clear to the rest of the country why the Nats community is united in support of a nationally over-discussed and criticized decision.

■ *By Zev Feder, a long-time Southwest resident with a life-long passion for baseball as a player, coach and, above all, fan.*

## Kids Run the Bases after a Nationals Game

Photos by Renee Feder



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